

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 05358 281604Z

61

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SAJ-01 MBFR-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

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R 281540Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7363

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 5358

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR YO UR

SUBJECT: KOSYGIN'S VISIT TO MACEDONIA

1. KOSYGIN'S WELL-PUBLICIZED ONE-DAY VISIT TO MACEDONIA SEPT 26 HAD ALL ASPECTS OF YUGOSLAV EXPLOITATION OF SOVIET PREMIER'S PRESENCE IN RUNNING BATTLE OF PINPRICKS WITH BULGARIA OVER "MACEDONIAN QUESTION". LIKE THESSALONIKI NEWSPAPER "MACEDONIA", YUGOSLAVS SHOWED NO RELUCTANCE BILLING VISIT AS DEMONSTRATION OF SOVIET ACCEPTANCE OF MACEDONIA AS PART OF YUGOSLAV FEDERATION. ON EVE OF VISIT OFFICIAL PRESS AGENCY TANJUG CARRIED EXCERPTS FROM FOREIGN PRESS SPECULATING THIS AS YUGOSLAV PURPOSE.

2. PRESIDENT OF MACEDONIAN ASSEMBLY NIKOLA MINCHEV HOSTED LUNCH FOR KOSYGIN AND IN TOAST RECALLED HOW MACEDONIANS, ALONG-SIDE OTHER YUGOSLAVS PEOPLES, FOUGHT FASCISM DURING WORLD WAR II, WINNING NATIONAL FREEDOM AND DEFENDING RIGHT TO EQUAL DEVELOPMENT WITHIN YUGOSLAVIA. KOSYGIN'S REPLY PRAISED MACEDONIAN PROGRESS IN TRANSFORMING "BACKWARD AGRARIAN COUNTRY INTO A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 BELGRA 05358 281604Z

DEVELOPED SOCIALIST REPUBLIC".

3. COMMENT: YUGOSLAV MOTIVES IN ALL THIS ARE OBVIOUS,
BUT THE QUESTION ARISES WHY THE SOVIETS WERE WILLING TO GO ALONG
AT THE RISK OF IRRITATING THE BULGARIANS. IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT THE
SOVIETS AT THIS TIME ARE BENDING OVER BACKWARDS TO BE ACCOMODATING
TO THE YUGOSLAVS -- PRESUMABLY SEEING THIS AS
SERVING BOTH LONG-RANGE AND SHORT-RANGE OBJECTIVES. AND, GIVEN
THE SPECIAL NATURE OF THE SOVIET-BULGARIAN RELATIONSHIP. THEY
PRESUMABLY FEEL THAT IT CAN STAND A FEW JOLTS WITHOUT SUFFERING
ANY BASIC DAMAGE.
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